

THE CANBERRA DRAFT

Newsletter of the Canberra Spinners and Weavers, Inc. (ABN 43 710 683 995)

Next Meeting – Saturday 15 July 2.00 pm

Speaker: **Esther Macdonald:** Journey in Knitting

Esther will talk about her long journey in knitting, a story about how knitting has changed over time. She will show many examples starting with work from when she was 8 years old!



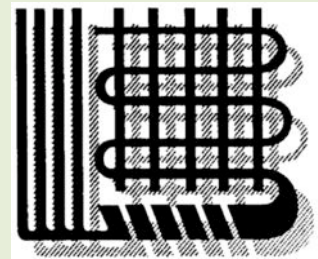
Esther with a rug recently spun and knitted

Combined CSW/CRF Get Together at our shared Chifley Rooms Saturday July 8th 11.00.am to 3.00pm

There will be demonstrations of Loom Weaving, Resist, Needle and Nuno Felting, Felted Jewellery, Rug Making, Knitting, Crochet, Tapestry Weaving, Spinning and Cheese Wool Work.

The main objective for the day is for members of the two groups to meet up, show each other what we are doing and to chat over lunch. Please bring a small plate of finger food to share. Our CSW Library and Shop will be open for sales and borrowing.

Come along, bring along portable works in progress and enjoy meeting, greeting and eating together in our new shared spaces at Chifley.



ISSUE 6/JULY 2017

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Meredith Hinchliffe

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Committee Meetings in
July and August will be
held at 11.30 on Members'
Meeting Days

Supported by



PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS

Mid winter is with us and what better time to settle down in front of the fire and plan or complete your projects. Don't get too settled though as I would encourage you all to take a few minutes to complete the CSW members survey, either online or by hard copy. We need the information to help in the planning for the future of the association.

In the most recent Queens Birthday honours, Fay Skyring (member of CSW) was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) 'for her services to the creative arts, and to the community of Canberra'. As many of you know Fay has recently retired her studio and to receive such an honour is certainly well deserved. Heartfelt congratulations from us all.

The members meeting on Saturday the 17th was really inspirational, with a great talk on Cambodian textiles by Liz Perry followed by 'show and tell' given by our Friday knitters group. What great creative talents we have: knitting and crocheting rags into wearable garments and floor rugs, delicate hand spun lace shawls, wearable jackets and intricate knitting patterns. This group is ready to share and welcome any member who would like to explore knitting techniques. Thank you for sharing your work and ideas. It certainly generated a lot of interest in the meeting. At the July meeting we will hear from Monique on and another of our interest groups. Also thank you to the 2 hostesses, Sandra Pavy and Janet Meaney, for their sterling work serving afternoon tea - the apple cake was delicious!

The committee has now purchased a new laptop computer which should improve the efficiency of our association. The plan is to install appropriate software to run our finances, membership and support our guest speakers with their power point presentations. There is also a new printer which can be used for photo copying at 50 cents a page (can be double-sided). Along with these new acquisitions there is also a PA system for use at exhibition openings, meetings and gatherings. This should make it easier to hear what is being said.

On Saturday July 8 we are holding a 'getting to know you friendship day' at Chifley. I would encourage you all to come and bring your table looms, spinning wheels, knitting, rag-rugging, tapestry etc and show the feltmakers what we do! The felters are going to demonstrate a variety of techniques used in their craft. We ask you to all bring a small plate of finger food to share. The event will run from 11am to 3pm. Tenants within the Chifley Hub will be invited to drop by during the day. We even encourage them to come and join us! To Lynne Johnson I want to say a big thank you for all her energy in organising this event. She is now going to take a well-deserved rest, so please come along and support this function.

Now that we are ACT Property tenants in a community hub we have to comply with their request to attend mandatory Fire Drill Training. Helen Cox, President of CRF, and I will be the main Fire Wardens. However we need to have other people in the organisation who are familiar with the procedures. I would ask that the coordinators of our interest groups please try to attend one of the training sessions. The times of these are Thursday 26/07/17 from 9 -10am or Wednesday 08/11/17 from 14.00-15.00. Could you please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the kitchen or let me know so I can book for us all.

Now we are settling into our new premises and hopefully making the rooms a little more homely and inviting, we need to turn our attention to fund raising. The committee is proposing we have a Visitors Day as we have done in the past, inviting other near groups to join us for a day of creative activity and 'show and tell'. We will provide lunch as in the past but charge a \$10.00 attendance fee which will include refreshments. We would like a volunteer from our membership to coordinate this event please. It is not a difficult task and the day is a very rewarding experience. Please let me know if you feel this is something you could commit some time to organising. We have nominated Monday the 18th September and have booked the Tenant meeting rooms to give us more space. This will be during Floriade which also helps to pull a crowd. Our association can only continue if we all do our own small part to help its survival.

The committee would also like to hear about any ideas for fund raising you may have. We need to raise money from the wider community and not always from our members. The Saturday meeting raffle will only take place if we have a donated item to raffle. Again this is our members contributing and brings in \$20-30. In addition to the meeting raffle, Leigh Casley is organising a bring-and-buy table, the criteria will be found in this newsletter. Our workshops usually turn a profit for us of about \$200-\$400 a course but depends on the numbers attending. In November we have our Open Day and Sale for 3 days, and our major Exhibition raffle (the item for this year is being made by Kath Phillips). We still need some creative ideas to help pay the rent!

The winter solstice is past and we can look forward to the lengthening days bringing us ever closer to our November exhibition! Hoping to see many of you at our get-together on the 8th July and again at our members meeting on Saturday 15th July.

Jenny Hall

WORKSHOP NEWS

BACK TO BASICS - Learning the Language of Design with JULIE BRADLEY

Simple and fun exercises will help you to unlock, explore and expand your design potential applicable to textile projects. Learn the basics of design and build a solid base on which to further extend your practice. Throughout the workshop we will be exploring design principles including: line, shape, composition, contrast, tone and colour. Each week we will introduce new principles and explore some applications through creative play using collage and simple drawing techniques. Bring along your current projects for comment and suggestion and find inspiration for new areas to investigate.

DATES: August 6, 13 and 20

TIMES: 3 hours each session (times to be confirmed)

WHERE: Canberra Spinners and Weavers Rooms in Chifley

FEE: \$165 (Full Fee) or \$120 (CSW members)

Beginner Weaving - 4 days: 6, 13 & 20 August and 10 September 9.30 am - 4 pm

Beginner Spinning - 4 days: 28 August and 4, 11 & 18 September 7 pm - 9-10 pm

See website for more information: <http://www.canberraspinnerandsweavers.org.au/workshops.html>

If you have any other ideas/requests for a workshop, please send an email to csw.workshops@gmail.com

LIBRARY NEWS

New books added to our collection in June

677.63 DAV	Fabulous felted hand-knits
746.422 MAR	Macrame pattern book - <i>Donated by Janet Tayler-Henry</i>
746.432 PHE	Stylish accessories knitted on a hand loom
746.434 BEN	Tapestry bead crochet: projects & techniques
746.434 BRI	Crocheted prayer shawl companion - <i>Donated by Janet Tayler-Henry</i>
746.434 KOP	Cool crocheted hats: 40 contemporary designs

Library catalogue: http://www.librarything.com/catalog/CSW_Spinners_Weavers

Alexis Yeadon
cswlibrarian@gmail.com

Our Activities

When people attend our rooms at Chifley they are to pay an Attendance Fee of \$3.00 into the 'Golden Box' on the table in the Main Room next to the Attendance Book to cover the cost of tea, coffee and to help cover the rental of our premises.

TUESDAY DROP-IN DAY

The library and the shop are open during the day. We meet every Tuesday from **10 am to 3 pm** at Chifley. Bring your own lunch; tea and coffee will be available.

TUESDAY EVENING DROP-IN

All facilities available **5.30 - 8.30 pm** or **7 pm** if no one turns up; library, shop sales, return and hire of equipment, tea, coffee and pleasant company. Phone enquiries and any information given for basic spinning and weaving.

Enquiries Val Walker 6227 0022

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPINNING GROUP

Meets alternate Wednesdays in our homes starting at **7 pm**. If your daily routine is keeping you away from your spinning come and try our evening group. We are always happy to see new faces at our get-togethers.

5 July, 19 July

Enquiries leonie.andrews@inet.net.au

THURSDAY SPINNING GROUP

This group meets fortnightly at Chifley. We gather around **10 am** and leave by **2.30 pm**. Everyone is most welcome to join us - please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee are available.

6 July, 20 July

Enquiries Barbara Stanilewicz 6281 3848

SOUTHSIDE SPINNING GROUP

This group meets at the **Erindale Library** every second Thursday (alternate to group above) from **1 pm to 3 pm**

13 July, 27 July

Enquiries: Kathleen Phillips 6298 3498 or Betty Hudson 6231 2669

THURSDAY WEAVING STUDY GROUP

All CSW members are welcome **10 am to 2 pm**. Bring your lunch and any show and tell, or bring along any problems with your weaving or your loom.

Thursday 27 July

Enquiries Di Adams 0407 486 356 or 6161 4825

FRIDAY RUG GROUP

The rag rug-making group is expanding its scope to include other construction techniques eg. crochet, knitting et al. The 'drop-in' day from **10 am to 2 pm** is on the **2nd Friday of the month** at Chifley and it's a great opportunity to practise hooky or proggy skills. Bring lunch (tea and coffee available).

14 July

Enquiries Robin Asman 6238 3465

SUNDAY RAG RUGGERS GROUP - new

The group meets on the **last Sunday of the month** at the Chifley rooms from **1.30 - 4.30 pm**. Tea and coffee available and lots of opportunities to explore the many ways of turning otherwise wasted fabric into fabulous rugs and much much more.

30 July

Enquiries Maggie Whyte 0488 747 953

SATURDAY TAPESTRY WEAVING GROUP

We meet on the second Saturday of each month at Chifley, from **10.00 am to 1.00pm**, BYO lunch. Any newcomers please confirm with Lisa beforehand.

8 July

Enquiries Lisa Molvig 6254 2040 or email molviglisa@gmail.com

FRIDAY KNITTING GROUP

The group holds meetings monthly on the last Friday of the month from **10 am - 2 pm**. Bring along your knitting and crochet and any questions you may have about these traditional arts.

28 July

Enquiries Jenny Harber 6230 2429

YASS ACTIVITIES GROUP

Meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the CWA Rooms in the Banjo Paterson Park, Yass, from **10.00am to 3.00pm**- Bring your own lunch- Tea and Coffee available. All members, new members and visitors are welcome.

5 July

Enquiries Lynne Clarke 6226 2205

BUNGENDORE SPINNING

A group generally meets at the School of Arts building on Wednesdays from 10am. Please confirm with Fran on **6238 1559**

HANDS-ON WEAVING & SATURDAY DROP-IN

A mixed drop-in day for weavers, spinners and knitters alike! We meet from **10.00am to 2.30pm** on the 1st Saturday of every month (except January). All members and visitors welcome. An opportunity to exchange ideas, assist each other with planning and solving problems. Our great library and shop are open!

5 August

Bring-and-Buy Table

What to bring - any items that pertain to spinning, weaving and related crafts, such as fibre, yarns, books, tools.

Items must be in useable condition (i.e. not require repair prior to use).

Any items donated should be marked with donor's name, date of donation and any useful information about the item such as weight of fibre, number of balls and composition, length/weight of yarn.

It will need to be priced prior to selling, so items may not be immediately available.

New Members

CSW welcomes the following new members: Megan Antoney, Kristy Besestri, Nadia McElroy-Johnson and Jennifer Sutherland

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Two Drum Carders- need some- TLC Two Ashford Traditional Spinning Wheels-

One Small Robinson Loom

If interested, please contact **Val Walker** on **02 6227 0022**





InterLaced

Solo exhibition by Belinda Rosee.
A Canberra based hand weaver
exploring the limitless possibilities
of fibre interlacement.

Exhibition to be opened by Monique van Nieuwland
Saturday 15 July 2017 at 4 pm

www.facebook.com/FibreLicious

Textiles of Cambodia



Liz Perry holds a Khmer pidan, a temple banner made of silk and patterned with weft ikat

Interview with our Curator Meredith Hinchliffe

Curious about curatorship?

So was our librarian Alexis Yeadon ...

Who is Meredith Hinchliffe and why do we need a curator anyway? That's the question some of our members were asking last year as the CSW executive committee began finalising plans for our two 50th anniversary exhibitions.

'She's the best there is', according to Monique van Nieuwland, CSW workshop convenor and weaving instructor at the Australian National University. 'We're lucky to have her'.

Did you know that Meredith supported our grant application to the ACT government with a letter committing her to the project? Yes, most of that money will end up in her pocket, but as many of our members well know, her hourly rate will not really compensate for the many hours of time she has already devoted to our two exhibitions.

Consider how much work is required for a successful annual exhibition. Of course the core is always the excellent work of our members but there are a multitude of details to be sorted out before the exhibition can take place: funding, dates, venue, a takeaway shop, collection and return procedures, raffle prize, sales, display of items, staffing, moving those plinths and so on.

Now think how much work would be required for a retrospective exhibition. In addition to all the usual details, a CSW committee would need to decide what's really important in our 50-year history. Who were the major players? What did they do? Who is still alive? Is any of their work still available and, if so, where is it and could we borrow it? How has CSW grown and developed? What would make this historical compilation interesting for visitors to the Canberra Museum and Gallery?

Since taking up her contract, Meredith has immersed herself in all things spinning and weaving. Would you really want to read all the membership lists and meeting minutes back to the very first meeting in 1966? This was what Meredith decided to do first.

After identifying some of our well-known and respected personalities from her reading, she extended her research by visiting many of these older former members in their homes. She also discovered collectors of early CSW work and visited them too.

Meredith knew of works in other institutions and placed borrowing requests for use in our retrospective. For example, the National Gallery will be lending four textile works: two by Solvig Baas Becking and one each from Belinda Ramson and Mo Wedd-Buccholz. The Tamworth Regional Gallery will lend a piece woven from the airmail edition of the *Guardian* newspaper by Catherine K. 'I knew they had this work in their collection because I curated an exhibition for the gallery in 2010', Meredith notes.

By the way, Meredith has recently curated an online exhibition of Belinda Ramson's work for the American Tapestry Alliance:

http://americantapestryalliance.org/exhibitions/tex_ata/belinda-ramson/

Following up her extensive research, Meredith determined to speak with as many of our 100+ members as possible, both individually and in small groups, just to make sure that everyone was comfortable with the curatorial process. 'One of the reasons I'm going to the groups is to look at people's ongoing work', she explains. 'I want to embrace all aspects of the work that members do. I also want to encourage them to challenge themselves and do something they have been wanting to try but haven't felt confident about.'

Her involvement with the local arts scene started in 1977, only 11 years after CSW began. A military brat, she attended 13 schools, ending up at Girls Grammar here in Canberra. After gaining the Leaving Certificate, Meredith, like many other women, trained as a secretary. When she started work at the then Craft Association of the ACT in 1978, she was the only paid employee. Incidentally, the Craft Association now Crafts Council was set up in 1963, only three years before CSW.

'We got a loan to fix up the gallery space [in Watson] and then offered classes in spinning, weaving, and screen printing to help pay back our loan', Meredith remembers. 'My job at the Crafts Council was at least 12 hours a day.'

During her time with the Council, she began to take on more of a curatorial role. 'Absolutely I just learned on the job', she recalls. Meredith curated many exhibitions in a variety of craft media – textiles, ceramics, wood, leather, metalwork and glass. A few members of CSW were and others still are 'professional' members of the Crafts Council.

Back in those days, there was no such thing as a degree in curatorship. A degree in conservation required knowledge of chemistry and art education. As a mature age student during the Whitlam era, Meredith obtained a B.A. in Administration from the then CCAE (now the University of Canberra). Many years later, she was the inaugural Executive Officer of the Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage at UC.

From 1978 to 2009, Meredith wrote articles and reviews about arty types, books, and exhibitions for the *Canberra Times*. She was awarded an ACT Women's Award in 2000 in recognition of her significant contribution to the arts community. In 2011 she was awarded an Australia Day medal by the National Gallery of Australia.

She is also an approved valuer of Australian ceramics, glass, textiles, jewellery, leatherwork, wooden objects, and furniture from 1950 for the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program. All the while she has continued to curate various exhibitions.

'I've never claimed to be an artist', Meredith declares. 'I guess Monique suggested me because of my knowledge of the whole scene going back to 1977 and because of my networks. I've established a lot of networks with people. And also because of my skill in curating exhibitions.'

Meredith used to knit and do patchwork but nowadays any spare time is spent doing jigsaw puzzles, bushwalking, or reading for pleasure, especially biographies.

So what exactly is Meredith looking for from our members for the annual exhibition? 'I will be looking for original designs', she states. 'I will be looking at the overall design of the work including colour selection, the execution of the design, and the finishing of the piece. I encourage members to try something different and to work outside their normal boundaries. Quality is the bottom line for me'.

'Hopefully I'm going to have too much work,' she smiles. As the curator, she will make the final decision about what is included and how the items will be displayed. 'That's normally the role of the curator. I will also be writing the catalogue essay for the CMAG show'.

She is very happy with the Tuggeranong Arts Centre as our venue. 'The volume of the space is really lovely', she believes, 'and the renovations have made the space more accessible'.

'The project has taken me much longer than I had anticipated', she muses quietly, 'but I have found it very interesting. It has been good to discover members' early works and rediscover those who are no longer members'.

If you are interested in submitting your work to our annual exhibition and have not yet spoken with Meredith, please contact her: Meredith@canberra.teknet.net.au

Dates of Demonstrations and Exhibitions in 2017

8 July	CSW/CRF get-together 11 am - 3 pm at Chifley - more details on Page 1
9 July	Creative Fibre Day at Old Bus Depot Markets 10 am - 4 pm - demonstrators please contact Liz Jarvis: 0419 201 878 or mailto:lizziejay360@hotmail.com or add your name to the sign-on sheet in the kitchen at Chifley
13 July - 6 August	InterLaced - solo exhibition by Belinda Rosee at Strathnairn to be opened by Monique van Nieuwland on Saturday 15 July at 4 pm - http://www.facebook.com/FibreLicious
Until 15 July	CHRISTIAN HALL AND EMERGING COMTEMPORARIES at Craft ACT Design Centre Jessica Ashcroft, one of CSW's 2016 Awardees, is one of the exhibitors
28 July	Entries close for <i>Traces II</i> , an exhibition of A5 works in any medium at Belconnen Arts Centre 23 Sept to 15 Oct: http://www.belconnenartscentre.com.au/events-and-exhibitions
28 October	CSW Historical Exhibition opens at Canberra Museum and Gallery
3 – 26 November	CSW Exhibition of Work at Tuggeranong Arts Centre
10 – 13 November	CSW annual retreat at Greenhills – note extra day this year
23 – 25 November	Display and Sale of members' work at Chifley

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2017 – 2018

President	Jenny Hall	6249 1942	Shop Manager	Susan Weisser	6231 9211
Vice President	Liz Perry	6259 1990	Workshop Convener	Monique van Nieuwland	6248 6958
Secretary	Lynne Johnson	6281 6771	Librarian	Alexis Yeadon	
Treasurer	Val Walker	6227 0022	Equipment	Val Walker	6227 0022
Newsletter Editor	Tina Bromhead	6288 9867	Meeting Convener	Christine Gale	
Membership enquiries	Pam McDougall	6249 1881	Minute Secretary		
Demonstration Convener	Liz Jarvis	6286 8041	Website Coordinator	Ruby Berry	rubyroseberry@live.com
Committee Members	Alison Cone	Carleen Jones			

CONTACT POINTS

Guild Phone/Fax (02) 6247 1048
70 Maclaurin Crescent Chifley ACT 2606
Website: www.canberraspinnerandsweavers.org.au
Email: canberraspinner1@bigpond.com

EQUIPMENT HIRE CHARGES

Spinning Wheels and Looms \$15 or \$20 per month
 All Accessories \$5 per month
 Equipment may be hired for maximum of **3 months**
 Equipment may be hired during the following times-
 Tuesdays 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 7.30pm,
 or contact Equipment Officer for another time.

The Canberra Draft

Contributions, advertisements and other items for the next and succeeding issues of the Canberra Draft should be sent to:

The Editor

CSW

PO Box 622

DICKSON ACT 2602

“The Editor” canberraspinner1@bigpond.com

or phone 02 6288 9867

PUBLISHING DATES

Unless stated otherwise

Issue August 2017

Final Cut Off **Wednesday 26 July**

ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER

\$5 for 1/2 A4 page ad

Payment must accompany advertisement.

Cheques/Money Orders payable to Canberra Spinners and Weavers Inc.

Direct Debit: BSB 062-908 Account No 00906522

(Please include surname in transaction description and email treasurer at CSW)

CSW Members receive a 50% discount only on newsletter advertising

ADVERTISING ON THE WEBSITE

Members - Free

\$10 for non-members to advertise on **website only** or an extra \$5 if advertising in newsletter as well.

Contact canberraspinner1@bigpond.com

Please ensure that the description of the item you are advertising corresponds with the actual condition of the item being offered for sale. The Canberra Spinners and Weavers Inc. does not accept any responsibility for any misleading advertising.

CSW Rooms at Chifley Hub

70 Maclaurin Crescent

Chifley 2606

canberraspinner1@bigpond.com

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Phone 02 6247 1048
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MEETING DATES

Hostesses

15 July

**Alison Cone &
Liz Perry**

19 August

**Lynne Johnson
Jill Hopkins**

16 September

21 October

18 November

CS&W MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining Fee (new & re-joining) \$10.00

Ordinary \$75.00

Family \$90.00,

Newsletter only \$50.00

Full Time Students \$55.00

Country – beyond 50 km
radius from Civic GPO \$55.00

Centrelink Concession & CES Disability Pensioners (number required)
and **80 years and over** \$55.00

The Joining Fee is paid by new members and past members who were not financial in the previous year.

New members joining between 1 July and 31 October pay 50% of Fee.

Members paying on or before 31 Dec of the current year, receive a \$5.00 discount. This applies to each category of membership.

Next Committee Meeting Saturday 15 July, 11.30 am

Next Members Meeting Saturday 15 July, 2.00 pm

If undeliverable return to:
Canberra Spinners & Weavers Inc.

CANBERRA DRAFT 6/2017

**Please
place
stamp here**

If you change your email address please EMAIL your new ADDRESS to canberraspinner1@bigpond.com to the Newsletter Editor